

## Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CAB-02 CIAE-00 COME-00 DODE-00  
DOTE-00 EB-08 INR-10 NSAE-00 FAA-00 L-03 PM-05  
NSC-05 SP-02 SS-15 PA-01 ICA-11 ACDA-12 SMS-01  
IO-13 OES-09 /110 W  
-----123676 061740Z /11

R 061435Z SEP 78  
FM AMEMBASSY OSLO  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6418  
INFO AMEMBASSY BONN  
AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN  
AMEMBASSY HELSINKI  
AMEMBASSY LONDON  
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW  
AMEMBASSY REYKJAVIK  
USMISSION USNATO

C O N F I D E N T I A L OSLO 4359

E.O. 11652: GDS  
TAGS: PEPR, NO, SV, UR  
SUBJECT: SOVIET AIR CRASH ON SVALBARD

REF: OSLO 4333

1. THE CLEAN-UP OF THE SOVIET BADGER AIRCRAFT IS CONTINUING.  
THE SOVIET CRUISER HAS LEFT THE AREA AND AT PRESENT A  
TANKER, THE "KOLA", IS STANDING BY HOPEN ISLAND. TWO  
HELICOPTERS FROM THE SHIP ARE TAKING THE DEBRIS  
ABOARD. THIS PHASE OF THE OPERATION IS EXPECTED TO  
LAST THROUGH SEPTEMBER 9.

2. MFA POLITICAL AFFAIRS DIRECTOR CHRISTIANSEN IN  
CONVERSATION WITH EMBOFF EMPHASIZED THE FACT THAT THE  
MFA DID NOT VIEW THE AIR CRASH IN THE CONTEXT OF THE  
CONTINUING GROUP OF SOVIET/SVALBARD PROBLEMS. THE  
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UNEXPECTED EVENT DID, HE SAID, ENGENDER SOME DIFFICULTIES  
IN WORKING OUT PRACTICAL ARRANGEMENTS WITH THE USSR.  
THESE PROBLEMS WERE, HE SAID, WORKED OUT, NOT ALWAYS  
WITHOUT UNPLEASANTNESS, BUT TO THE EVENTUAL SATISFACTION  
OF BOTH PARTIES.

3. THE ONLY REMAINING PROBLEM IS THAT OF THE FLIGHT

RECORDER (REFTEL). AS OF SEPTEMBER 6, THE GON HAD NOT YET DECIDED WHERE TO HAVE THE RECORDER DECIPHERED.

4. COMMENT: THE FLIGHT RECORDER NOW PRESENT THE GON WITH AN UNWELCOME PROBLEM. THE INVESTIGATING COMMISSION, ON ITS RETURN FROM HOPEN, MADE A POINT OF TELLING THE PRESS THAT THE RECORDER WAS IN OSLO. THE GON, GIVEN THE RECENT CONTEXT OF SOVIET SHIP INTRUSIONS, FISHERIES PROTECTION ZONE PROBLEMS AND OTHER NORTHERN DIFFICULTIES, IS ANXIOUS TO AVOID A CONFRONTATION WITH THE USSR ON THIS LESS THAN CRUCIAL MATTER. THE READINESS OF THE PRESS, HOWEVER, TO SEIZE ON INDICATIONS OF GON OVER-ACCOMMODATION TO THE USSR AND THE PENDING RETURN OF PARLIAMENT (ON COTOBER 2), HAS LIMITED THEIR GOVERNMENT'S ROOM FOR MANEUVER. AT PRESENT THE GON CAN CONCEIVE OF NO SOLUTION TO THE "BLACK BOX" PROBLEM THAT WILL NOT ENTAIL EITHER CRITICISM BY THE PRESS OR ADDITIONAL CONFRONTATION WITH THE USSR.  
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## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 jan 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** ALLIANCE, MEETING AGENDA, BRIEFING MATERIALS, CODELS, GOVERNMENT REACTIONS, SALT (ARMS CONTROL)  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 06 sep 1978  
**Decaption Date:** 01 jan 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 20 Mar 2014  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
**Document Number:** 1978OSLO04359  
**Document Source:** CORE  
**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** n/a  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** GS  
**Errors:** N/A  
**Expiration:**  
**Film Number:** D780363-0217  
**Format:** TEL  
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**Line Count:** 81  
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**Litigation Codes:**  
**Litigation History:**  
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**Office:** ACTION EUR  
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**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
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**Previous Classification:** CONFIDENTIAL  
**Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Reference:** 78 OSLO 4333  
**Retention:** 0  
**Review Action:** RELEASED, APPROVED  
**Review Content Flags:**  
**Review Date:** 13 may 2005  
**Review Event:**  
**Review Exemptions:** n/a  
**Review Media Identifier:**  
**Review Release Date:** n/a  
**Review Release Event:** n/a  
**Review Transfer Date:**  
**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
**SAS ID:** 1523054  
**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** SOVIET AIR CRASH ON SVALBARD  
**TAGS:** PARM, IT, US, NATO, PCI  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
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**Review Markings:**  
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